София в акварелите на
ОБЕРБАУЕР



The current capital of Bulgaria - Sofia, is one of the oldest cities in Europe. City of millennia past, it experienced the turbulent historical events in the Balkans, but life in it did not stop even for a moment. With documentary accuracy and fairness, with talent and artistry J. Oberbauer painted the ancient city from the 80s and 90s of the 19th century. Today, when the city has changed beyond recognition and many objects painted from the artist had been irrevocably lost, his remarkable watercolors and drawings are the dearest memories from the past of the city.

Joseph Sebastian Oberbauer was born in October 1853 in the Alpine town of St. Leonhard - Austria, from a clerical family. Primary education he received in the hometown, and graduated from high school in Innsbruck. He showed tendency to draw even in his childhood. Upon completion of high school with honors he received award as an artist. He dreamed to study in Art Academy, but at the insistence of his father enrolled engineering. Three years later, after the death of his father, he dropped out.

Living in strained circumstances, with a sinking heart, he suggested to the municipality in Graz where he was a student, some of his watercolors that reflected the old part of town. Welcomed, they are redeemed immediately. Encouraged by his success, Oberbauer recorded at the Art Academy, where for two years he studied painting at eight prominent artists. Finally, scarcity and misery made him drop out. He worked as a teacher for awhile. Trying again to continue his education he failed.

In 1889 he came to Bulgaria and settled in Sofia. He started to work as a technician in the Cadastral Department of Sofia Municipality and participated in the development of the first cadastral plan of the city. After completion of the plan, he joined the Directorate for State Construction of railways and ports. Redundancy of the state made him leave the job and return to the municipality where he worked until end of his life.

Living in the capital of recently liberated from Ottoman rule of Bulgaria, the 36-year old Joseph Oberbauer observed in wake curiosity and creative interest the architecture and life of the city. Professional responsibilities of Public Works at the outgoing city with its oriental look, old Bulgarian

architecture and ancient ruins, gives Oberbauer favorable opportunity to recreate almost in documentary style the atmosphere of Sofia in the early years of its freedom and as capital of the country. In addition to this documentary accuracy and artistic impact, his paintings reveal keen observation and insight into the nature of the objects in their typical Bulgarian style.

Bulgaria turned into his second homeland, J. S. Oberbauer leaves considerable collection of works reflecting the life and appearance of Sofia, the architecture of churches, monasteries, inns, streets, bazaars, archaeological sites, etc. some of which already doesn't exist. His drawings of the Rila Monastery are a valuable document that can re-discover many parts of the monastery. And this is undoubtedly part of the significance of the painter's creation.

Hristo Markov








Част от старата Търговска улица с Безистенът.


T.OBERBAUER 1892













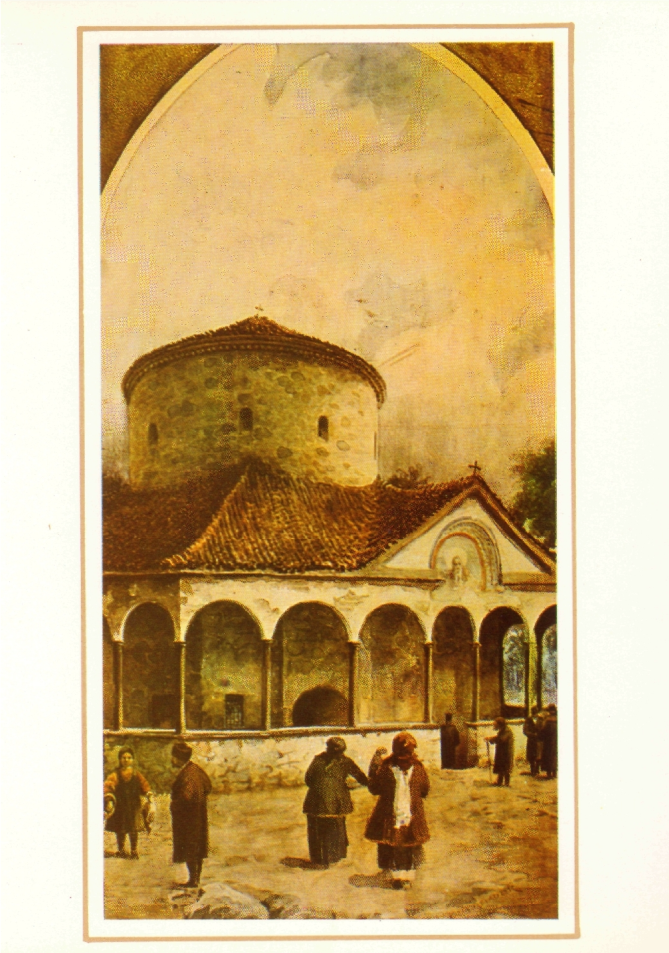

Обербауеръ
Ханове въ ломската улица – София





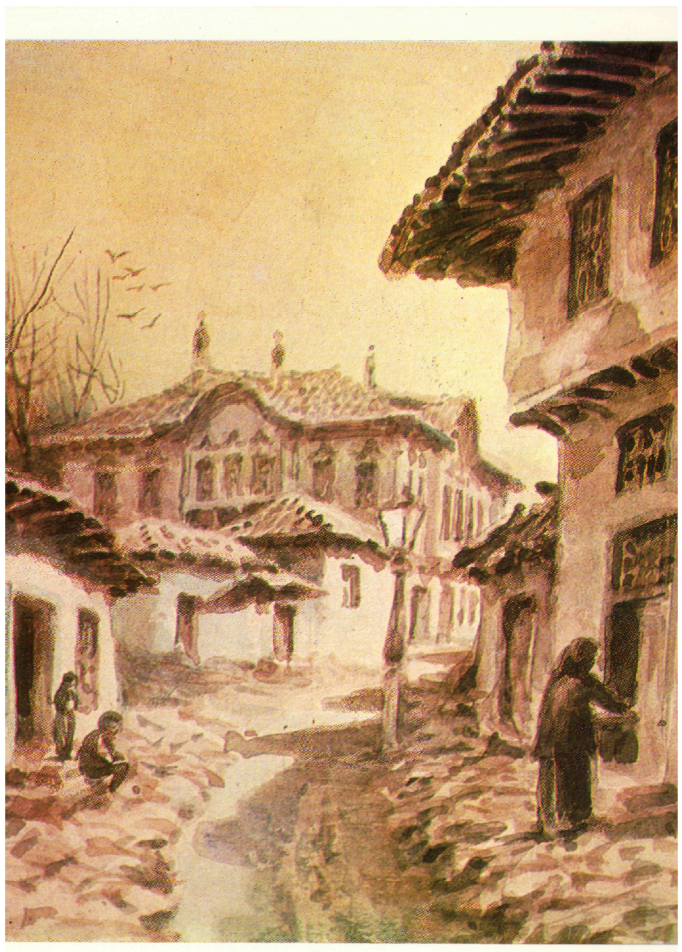


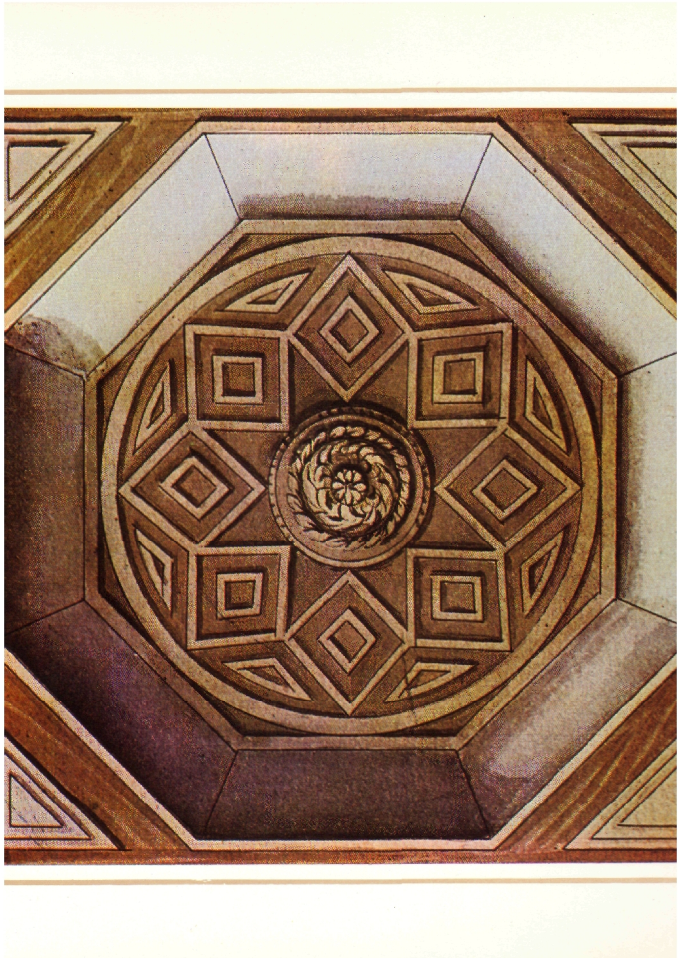


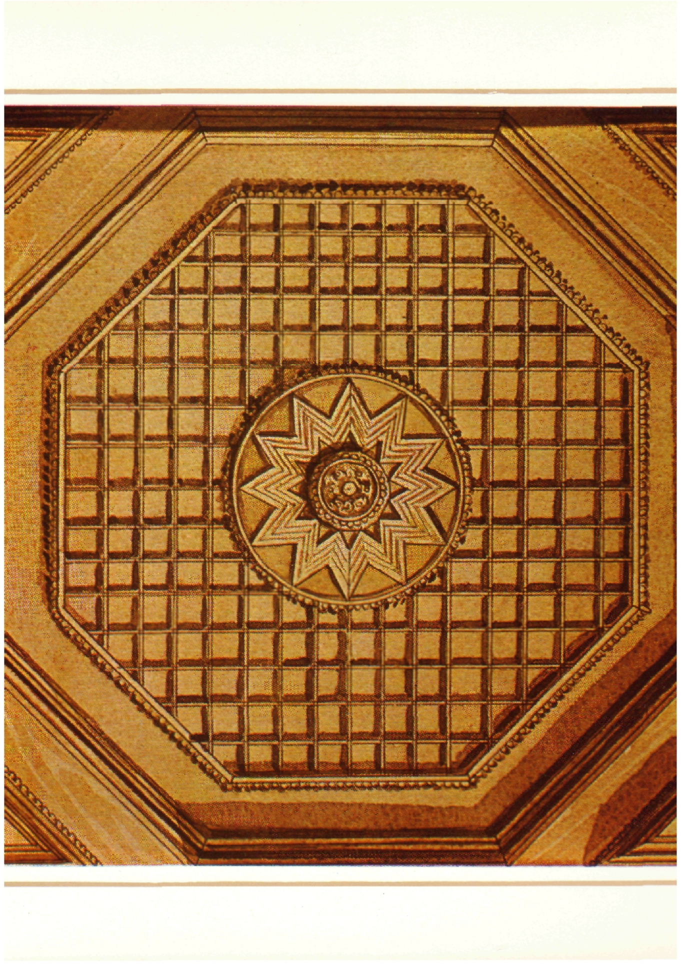


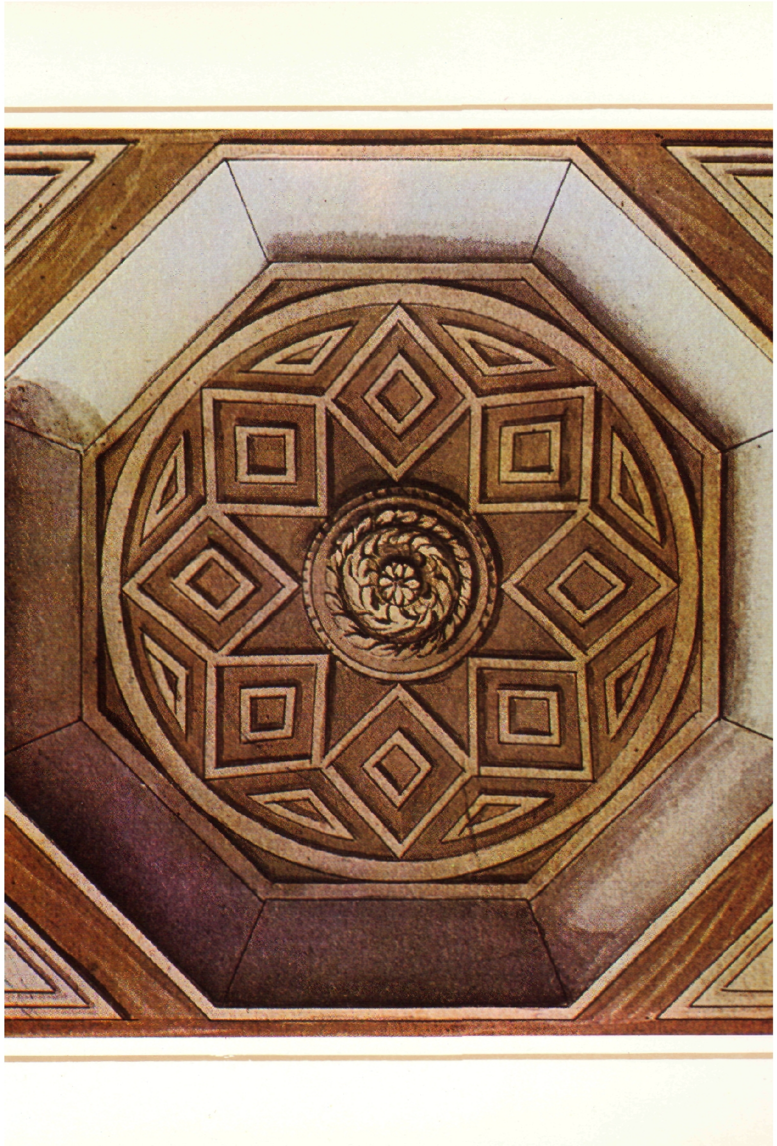


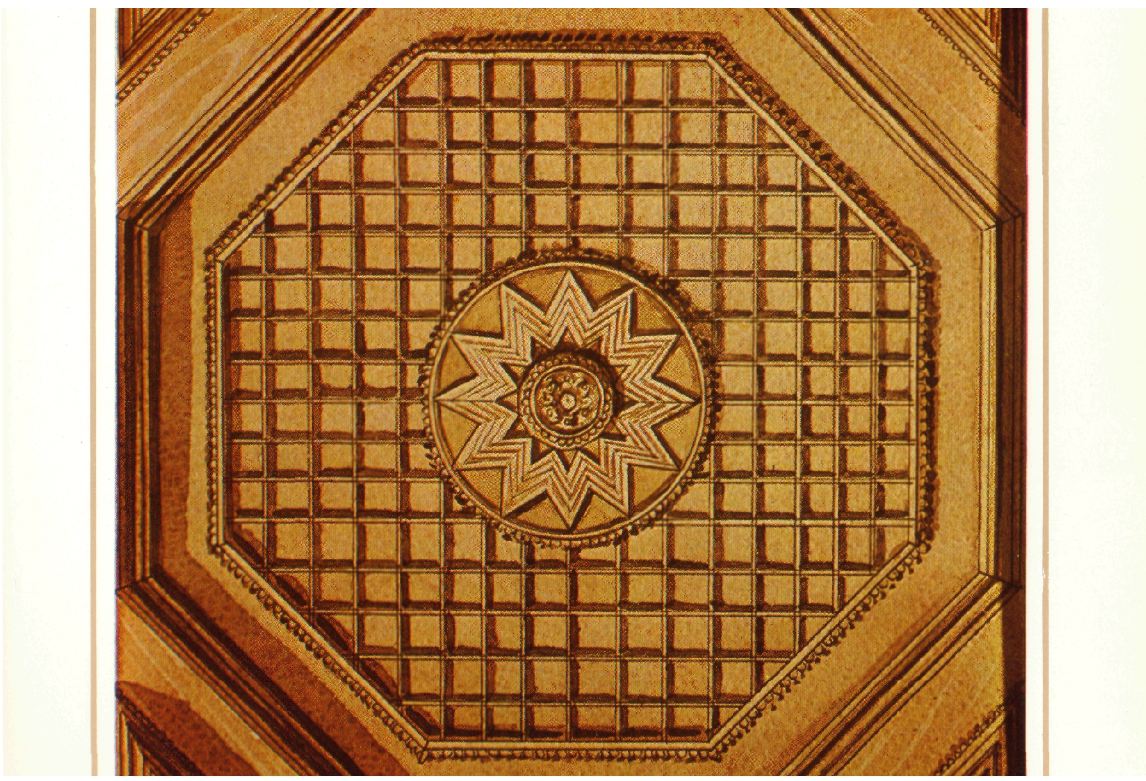










СОФИЯ В АКВАРЕЛИТЕ НА ОБЕРБАУЕР

НА КОРИЦАТА

1. Софийска улица със Сливнишкия пазар, Д-22444
Софийская улица со Сливницким базаром
Sofioter Straße mit dem Sliwnizaer Markt

2. Из Стара София, Д-22442
В Старой Софии
Im alten Sofia

3. Улица в София, Д-22451
Улица в Софии
Straße in Sofia

СОФИЯ В АКВАРЕЛИТЕ НА ОБЕРБАУЕР

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